

USSN: 09/634,706  
Art Unit: 2665  
Response to Final action mailed 03/29/2005

**Remarks**

With regard to the informality objection, it appears that the strike-through did not come out properly on the fax transmitted to the USPTO. The relevant clause of the previously presented claim 1 was intended to read:

"whereby said inverse multiplexer devices can be cascaded to increase the number of output links that can be accommodated by said inverse multiplex protocol."

This wording has been reflected in the claim listing noted above.

The conditional allowance of claims 10 and 13 has been noted with appreciation. The feature of claim 13 has been incorporated into claim 11. Similarly the feature of claim 10 has been incorporated into claim 1.

However, it has not been deemed necessary to incorporate into claim 1 the intervening claims for former claim 10 since as correctly noted by the Examiner the prior art does not show the expansion port acting as a master controller. It is believed therefore that claim 1 as amended contains patentable subject matter for essentially the same reason as claim 11 as amended. It is noted that there were no intervening claims for claim 13 corresponding to the intervening claims for former claim 10.

Allowance and reconsideration are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Registration No. 34519  
Richard J. Mitchell  
Agent of Record

MARKS & CLERK  
P. O. Box 957, Station B,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K1P 5S7  
(613) 236-9561